



ARNOLD & PORTER

165 X
202.942.5000
202.942.5999 Fax
555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

March 18, 2003

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

MAR 20 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Re: U.S. Application No. 09/688,069
Filed: October 14, 2000
Title: Nucleic Acid Sequences to Proteins Involved in
Tocopherol Synthesis
Applicants: SUBRAMANIAM *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16515.054

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. a Response to Office Action mailed December 18, 2002;
2. a Return Postcard.

Please stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of this document and return it to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387 referencing matter number 16515.054. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Edwards

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
Dawn M. Gardner (Reg. No. 44,118)
Danielle M. Edwards, Law Clerk (Reg. No. 51,645)



17
Amendt B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Sai S. SUBRAMANIAM *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/688,069

Filed: October 14, 2000

For: **Nucleic Acid Sequences to
Proteins Involved in Tocopherol
Synthesis**

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Art Unit: 1638

Examiner: E. McELWAIN

Atty. Docket: 16515.054

Response to Office Action mailed December 18, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 18, 2002, Paper No. 15, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 10-12 as follows:

B1 1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a tocopherol cyclase.

B2 10. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said tocopherol cyclase is isolated from a prokaryotic cell source.

B3 11. (Twice Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said tocopherol cyclase is encoded by a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 38.

12. (Twice Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 10, wherein said nucleic